

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 28 and 34 are amended herein. Claims 17 through 25, 27, 33, 35 and 37-46 were previously withdrawn. Claims 2, 9, 10, & 11 were previously canceled. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A composition of endothelial cells comprising:
2 immortal human microvascular endothelial cells, said cells each comprising a recombinant
3 expression cassette encoding human telomerase, wherein said cells (a) have a normal
4 karyotype, (b) are resistant to apoptosis relative to primary microvascular endothelial
5 cells, and (c) are not transformed.
- 1 2. (Canceled)
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said human telomerase
2 is a human telomerase reverse transcriptase catalytic subunit.
- 1 4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said cells express one or more
2 phenotypic traits expressed uniquely by young primary microvascular endothelial cells.
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein said phenotypic trait is
2 selected from the group consisting of surface receptors, and endothelial cell specific
3 signaling transduction pathways, or both.
- 1 6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said cells stably express
2 a genetic marker.
- 1 7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein said genetic marker is
2 enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP).
- 1 8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein said cells form human microvascular
2 structures *in vitro*.
- 1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein growth of the human
2 microvascular structures is modulated by a pharmaceutically acceptable compound that
3 promotes angiogenesis.

1 13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein said compound is VEGF.

1 14. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein said compound is FGF-2.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein growth of the human
2 microvascular structures is modulated by a pharmaceutically acceptable compound that is an
3 anti-angiogenic compound.

1 16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein said anti-angiogenic compound is
2 endostatin.

1 17. (Withdrawn)

1 18. (Withdrawn)

1 19. (Withdrawn)

1 20. (Withdrawn)

1 21. (Withdrawn)

1 22. (Withdrawn)

1 23. (Withdrawn)

1 24. (Withdrawn)

1 25. (Withdrawn)

1 26. (Withdrawn)

1 27. (Withdrawn)

1 28. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~any one of claim[s] 1, 3-8, or 12-16,~~
2 wherein said cells demonstrate an extension of cellular life span and resistance to
3 apoptosis comparable to young primary human dermal microvascular endothelial
4 cells.

1 29. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein said cells demonstrate said
2 extended cellular life span and resistance to apoptosis *in vivo* using a SCID-Human Chimeric
3 Microvascular Remodeling Assay System.

1 30. (Previously Presented) A composition of endothelial cells comprising immortal
2 human microvascular endothelial cells, wherein said cells each stably express enhanced
3 green fluorescent protein (eGFP) and comprise a recombinant expression cassette encoding
4 human telomerase, wherein said cells (a) have a normal karyotype, (b) are resistant to
5 apoptosis relative to primary microvascular endothelial cells, and (c) are not transformed.

1 31. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a composition of endothelial cells
2 comprising immortal human microvascular endothelial cells, wherein said cells each
3 comprise a recombinant expression cassette encoding human telomerase, wherein said cells
4 (a) have a normal karyotype, (b) are resistant to apoptosis relative to primary microvascular
5 endothelial cells, and (c) are not transformed, comprising introducing said recombinant
6 expression cassette encoding telomerase into human dermal microvascular endothelial cells
7 and expressing said telomerase.

1 32. (Original) A composition produced by the method of claim 31, wherein said
2 microvascular cells form neovasculature, and wherein host blood is transmitted through said
3 neovasculature.

1 33. (Withdrawn)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising isolated immortal human
2 microvascular cells, wherein said cells form neovasculature, and wherein host blood is
3 transmitted through said neovasculature.

1 35. (Withdrawn)

1 36. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein said cells comprise a genetic
2 marker, wherein said marker is expressible in said cells; and wherein said marker is
3 introduced into said cells through a molecule of recombinant DNA.

1 37. (Withdrawn)

1 38. (Withdrawn)

1 39. (Withdrawn)

1 40. (Withdrawn)

1 41. (Withdrawn)

1 42. (Withdrawn)

1 43. (Withdrawn)

1 44. (Withdrawn)

1 45. (Withdrawn)